New OS390 Obsoletes VSAM IMBED Parameter

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Change

The upgrade of OS/390 to version 2.9 includes upgrading SMS (System Managed Storage) to version 1.5, which will make the VSAM IMBED parameter obsolete. This will have only beneficial effects.

Purpose

VSAM files must not have the obsolete IMBED characteristic to be eligible for inclusion in Geographically Dispersed Parallel Sysplex™, a clustering architecture claimed by IBM to help ensure uninterrupted data processing ("continuous computing") for mission-critical applications, allow data center managers to optimize existing capacity, and reduce the overall costs of computing.

Action Required

1.   Files with IMBED need to be rebuilt with NOIMBED if they are desired to be part of Parallel Sysplex.
2.   Existing VSAM files that were created with the IMBED parameter will need to be rebuilt to pick up the NOIMBED attribute. Files that are routinely rebuilt will automatically pick up the NOIMBED attribute when they are re-recreated under SMS 1.5+ (OS/390 2.9+).
3.   The IMBED or NOIMBED parameter should be removed from IDCAMS input to reduce confusion.

Here is sample JCL to remove IMBED from a dataset:

```
//*
//* CLEARS THE IMBED FROM A CLUSTER; RENAME AFTER COMPLETION
//* File-AID renames VSAM clusters conveniently.
//*
//STEP1    EXEC  PGM=IDCAMS
//SYSPRINT DD  SYSOUT=*
//SYSOUT   DD  SYSOUT=*
//SYSIN    DD *
  DEFINE CLUSTER -
    (NAME(SWDLP.ORSIS.ASFTS.USL.X) -
      NOIMBED  -
      MODEL(SWDLP.ORSIS.ASFTS.USL))

  REPRO -
    INDATASET(SWDLP.ORSIS.ASFTS.USL) -
    OUTDATASET(SWDLP.ORSIS.ASFTS.USL.X)
/*
//
```

Space Considerations

Files rebuilt without IMBED will use 6.7% **fewer** cylinders of DATA, and a few more tracks of INDEX.

History

IMBED was devised to assure that the sequence set in the index was on the same cylinder as the data to which it pointed, so no head movement was necessary between reading the sequence set record and the DATA CI. This sacrificed some disk space to save time. Cache controllers made IMBED obsolete as a time saver; inertia left them in place as a space-waster.